

Appl. No. 09/737,544

Amendment dated November 29, 2004

In Reply to the Office Action of August 25, 2004

Attorney Ref. No.: 068800-0275486

I. AMENDMENT

Amendment of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Claims 1, 16-18, and 56 are currently amended.

1. (currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of tissue damage in a subject having an inflammatory and/or tissue damaging condition, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting the binding of C-reactive protein (CRP) to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof;

wherein the compound comprises phosphocholine or a derivative thereof and binds to the calcium-dependent ligand binding site of CRP so as to interfere with binding of CRP to the autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the inflammatory and/or tissue damaging condition comprises atherosclerosis.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the inflammatory and/or tissue damaging condition is selected from an infection, an allergic complication of infection, an inflammatory disease, ischemic or other necrosis, traumatic tissue damage and malignant neoplasia.

4. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the condition is an infection selected from a bacterial infection, a viral infection, and a parasitic infection.

5. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the condition is an allergic complication of infection selected from rheumatic fever, glomerulonephritis, and erythema nodosum leprosum.

6. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the condition is an inflammatory disease selected from Rheumatoid arthritis, Juvenile chronic (rheumatoid)

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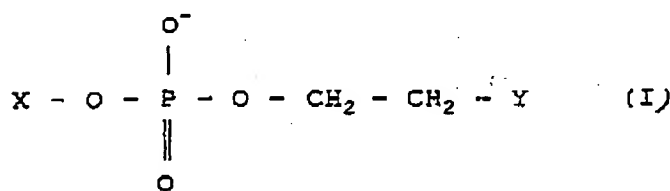
arthritis, Ankylosing spondylitis, Psoriatic arthritis, Systemic vasculitis, Polymyalgia rheumatica, Reiter's disease, Crohn's disease and Familial Mediterranean fever.

7. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the condition is tissue necrosis selected from Myocardial infarction, Tumour embolization and Acute pancreatitis.

8. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the condition is trauma selected from elective surgery, burns, chemical injury, fractures and compression injury.

9. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the condition is malignant neoplasia selected from Lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, Carcinoma and Sarcoma.

10. (original) A method for the treatment or prevention of tissue damage in a subject having an inflammatory and/or tissue damaging condition, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound of general formula (I):



wherein X is H or an organic substituent group, and Y is N substituted to form ammonium.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein X is H or C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl.

12. (original) A method according to claim 11, wherein X is C₁₂ to C₂₀ alkyl

13. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein Y is N-R₃, in which each R is independently selected from C₁ to C₅ alkyl.

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14. (original) A method according to claim 13, wherein each R is CH₃

15. (original) A method for the treatment or prevention of tissue damage in a subject having an inflammatory/tissue damaging condition, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound comprising hexadecylphosphocholine.

16. (currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of atherosclerosis in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting binding of C-reactive protein (CRP) to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof;

wherein the compound comprises phosphocholine or a derivative thereof and binds to the calcium-dependent ligand binding site of CRP so as to interfere with binding of CRP to the autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof.

17. (currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of tissue damage in a subject having a myocardial infarction, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting binding of C-reactive protein (CRP) to its autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof at or after the onset of the infarction;

wherein the compound comprises phosphocholine or a derivative thereof and binds to the calcium-dependent ligand binding site of CRP so as to interfere with binding of CRP to the autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof.

18. (currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of a thrombotic complication of atherosclerosis in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting binding of C-reactive protein (CRP) to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof;

wherein the compound comprises phosphocholine or a derivative thereof and binds to the calcium-dependent ligand binding site of CRP so as to interfere with binding of CRP to the autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof.

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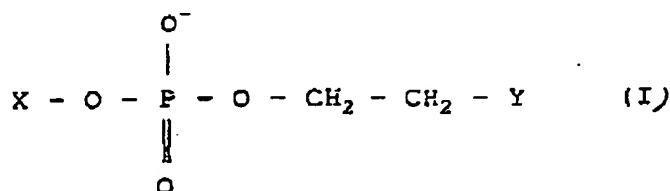
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19. (original) A method according to any one of claims 1, 10, 15, 16, 17 or 18, wherein the subject is a human subject.

20. (original) A method according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the compound capable of inhibiting the binding of CRP to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof has the general formula (I):



wherein X is H or an organic substituent group, and Y is N substituted to form ammonium.

21. (original) A method according to claim 20, wherein X is H or C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl.

22. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein X is C₁₂ to C₂₀ alkyl.

23. (original) A method according to claim 20, wherein Y is N-R₃, in which each R is independently selected from C₁ to C₅ alkyl.

24. (original) A method according to claim 23, wherein each R is CH₃.

25. (original) A method for the treatment or prevention of tissue damage in a subject with myocardial infarction, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound comprising hexadecylphosphocholine.

26-38. (canceled)

39. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is an antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds C-reactive protein.

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40. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is a fragment of C-reactive protein or a fusion protein comprising a fragment of C-reactive protein.

41. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said antibody specifically binds the calcium-dependent binding site of C-reactive protein.

42. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the subject is a human subject.

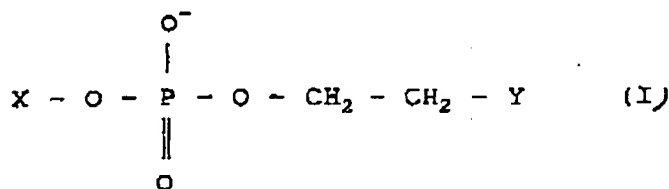
43. (original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the subject is a human subject.

44. (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the subject is a human subject.

45. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the subject is a human subject.

46. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the subject is a human subject.

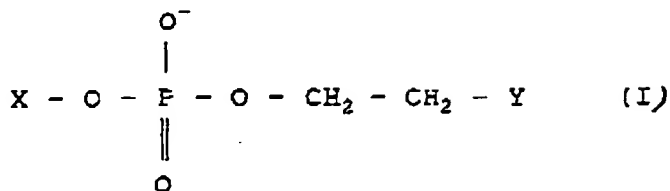
47. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the compound capable of inhibiting the binding of CRP to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof has the general formula (I):



wherein X is H or an organic substituent group, and Y is N substituted to form ammonium.

48. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the compound capable of inhibiting the binding of CRP to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof has the general formula (I):

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wherein X is H or an organic substituent group, and Y is N substituted to form ammonium.

49. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the inflammatory and/or tissue damaging condition comprises a stroke.

50. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the inflammatory and/or tissue damaging condition comprises a stroke.

51. (previously presented) A method according to claim 50, wherein X is H or C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl.

52. (previously presented) A method according to claim 51, wherein X is C₁₂ to C₂₀ alkyl

53. (previously presented) A method according to claim 50, wherein Y is N-R₃, in which each R is independently selected from C₁ to C₅ alkyl.

54. (previously presented) A method according to claim 53, wherein each R is CH₃.

55. (previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the complication of atherosclerosis comprises a stroke.

56. (currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of stroke in a subject, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound

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capable of inhibiting the binding of C-reactive protein (CRP) to an autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof;

wherein the compound comprises phosphocholine or a derivative thereof and binds to the calcium-dependent ligand binding site of CRP so as to interfere with binding of CRP to the autologous or extrinsic ligand thereof.